

WHAT TO DO WHEN POWER IS LOST

After the power goes out many ATMs gas pumps, elevators, traffic signals and street lights will immediately stop working. One by one electronic utilities that use back-up power will gradually shut down over the next few hours.

IMMEDIATELY

POWER OUTAGE HACK:

Food in a freezer that is full at the outset of an outage will last twice as long as food in a half-full freezer. If your household's freezer has extra room, fill containers with water -Leaving about 1 inch of space at the top to allow for expansion - and place them in the freezer.

12 HOURS

The average smartphone will begin to lose power, and there is no easy way to recharge it. Cellphone towers, which are required to have eight hours of backup power, will begin to shut down. It will become difficult to find ways to access the internet.

POWER OUTAGE HACK:

Keep a hand crank radio in your home and/or vehicle to receive emergency alerts after other communication systems have failed. Families should develop emergency communication plans, potentially identifying an out-of-state friend or relative to contact to notify others they are safe.

24 HOURS

After a full day without electricity, food in a freezer that was half-full at the start of the outage has gone bad and must be thrown away. Grocery stores that were running on backup power supplies may begin to lose power. Perishable food will start to become scarce in the stores that are still open.

POWER OUTAGE HACK: It is recommended that households keep at least 1 gallon of water per person per-day on hand, and at

least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.

Be prepared for a blackout

♦ Build an emergency kit with emergency food and water, a flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit and other items.

For more information, see

<http://www.ready.gov/document/family-supply-list>.

♦ Keep paper copies of important documents, including first aid manuals and printouts of emergency supply procedures, in a centralized location in your household.

♦ Never run a power generator indoors or in a garage.

♦ Keep an emergency house key an accessible place. If you use a power dependent garage door as the primary method of entering your home

♦ Be aware of any plans you need to have in place involving medication that requires refrigeration.

♦ After a blackout, dispose of any food that has been exposed to temperatures greater than 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours 9or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.

FOR MORE TIPS, SEE

<http://www.ready.gov/blackouts>

48 HOURS

After two days without power, food in a freezer that was full at the start of the outage has gone bad and must be thrown away .Credit card scanners are non-functional as people stock up on supplies, so communities shift to cash based economies. Cash is in short supply because of the closed banks and lack of functional ATMs. Security may become an issue as community members struggle to obtain available resources.

POWER OUTAGE HACK:

Keep cash or traveler's checks on hand in your household to be prepared for a long term outage.

THREE DAYS

Urban mass transit systems, especially those depending upon electrified railways, come to a halt, large cities begin to depend on air and water for transportation of goods and people. It becomes impractical for many to commute to and from work. Schools remain closed. Regional economies cease production.

POWER OUTAGE HACK:

Extreme weather can become dangerous in a blackout. If it is hot, move to the lowest level of your home or find an emergency shelter in your community that is being cooled. If it cold, wear extra layers and find a location that is heated. Never burn charcoal or use an oven as a source of indoor heat.

FOUR DAYS

Hospitals which are required to have a 96-hour supply of backup fuel oil, may begin to lose power in some areas. Health care workers make critical choices about where to move patients whose treatments depend on electronic equipment. Supplies of commercially available fuel become scarce because of the use of back-up generators.

POWER OUTAGE HACK:

Keeping your vehicle's gas tank at least half-full at all times will ensure you have fuel for emergency transportation in the event of a blackout, when gas pumps will probably not be functional.